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SRI K. S. ABDUL WAHAB : Will the Government consider the proposal to issue licences to drivers with not less than 10 years service to drive heavy vehicles ?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Sir, if the hon. Member suggests that in order to qualify for a heavy endorsement, the applicant must have put in ten years of service as an ordinary driver, we will be put to very great difficulties to find men to man our transport buses. On the other hand we are trying to give training, so far as State Transport is concerned, for our drivers in the training school run by us. We are also contemplating some measures to give training for heavy duty vehicle drivers.

SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN : As the Hon. Minister pointed out, because of lack of co-operation from the public, I suggest a more strict enforcement of the rules. Will the Government consider and do the needful. 3-10 p.m.

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : We are as strict as possible. There is a limit beyond which we cannot be strict.

Textile Mills in the State

* 169. *Q.*—SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN (on behalf of DR. T. V. Sivanandam) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(*a*) the total number of Textile Mills in the State which have gone into production in the years 1959 and 1964;

(*b*) the total cost of (i) cotton produced in the State and (ii) cotton imported from foreign countries consumed in 1959 and 1964 ; and

(*c*) the total number of textile mills licensed yet to go on production as on 30th April 1965 ?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN . (a) One textile mill went into production in 1959 and eleven in 1964.

(*b*) Cotton produced in 1959–60 and 1964–65 was 3,86,870 bales and 4,30,400 bales respectively.

(*c*) 28.

Industrial Co-operative Societies

* 170 *Q.*—SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN (on behalf of DR. T. V. Sivanandam : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(*a*) the total number and names of Industrial Co-operative Societies for weavers in Coimbatore and Salem districts as on the latest available date with year of starting;

(*b*) the financial assistance and other help given by the Government to each society so far; and

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(c) the total amount of profit and loss sustained by each society in the years 1960-61, 1962-63 and 1963-64?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : (a) to (c) A statement [a] is placed on the table of the House.

SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN : Sir, from the statement it is seen that many societies are incurring losses continuously. Have the Government examined the reasons for these losses ?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Those societies which have existed for more than three years were able to make up. But those societies which were started recently have not yet picked up and it takes some time for them.

SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN : Even in the case of societies started four years before, there is this continuous loss. For instance, in the case of the Coimbatore Industries Weavers' Co-operative Society, there has been a continuous loss of Rs. 15,453, Rs. 28,396, Rs. 38,193, and Rs. 57,496. As the years pass the loss also has increased. Will the Hon. Minister enlighten us as to the reasons for these continuous losses?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : An enquiry under Section 65 of the Co-operative Societies Act has been instituted.

SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN : Sir, the enquiry under section 65 of the Co-operative Societies Act takes a very long time and the officers are not taking it up seriously. So, will the Government see that action is expedied and that a time-limit is prescribed so that it may have some effect?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : We always expedite matters. I do not think it takes so much time.

Paddy lands for cultivation of Commercial Crops

* 171. Q.—SRI M. SANKARALINGAM PILLAI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Home be pleased to state—

(a) the extent of paddy lands utilised for cultivation of commercial crops like sugarcane, tobacco, coconut, etc., during 1964-65 ;

(b) whether food production has been affected by such conversion ; and

(c) the district in which such conversion has taken place on a large scale ?

THE HON. SRI P. KAKKAN : (a) It is not possible to give any precise information on the extent of paddy lands switched over to cultivation of the commercial crops referred to, as such information can only be ascertained by a field-to-field survey.

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[a] Printed as Appendix II on page 57-59 infra.